



The STRIPES Communiqué is one of the many ways you will receive information and progress updates about the STRIPES Project. If you did not receive this communiqué via e-mail and would like to be added to the STRIPES mailing list, send an e-mail to STRIPES@hq.doe.gov with the word “subscribe” in the subject line.

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Pre-Deployment Activities

Pre-deployment consists of activities that happen before implementation. These activities entail 4 discrete steps that lead an organization to using the new system. The steps include Readiness Assessments, Training, Instrument Reconstruction and Implementation.

First, each STRIPES site will conduct Readiness Assessments as a start to the pre-deployment activity. During the Readiness Assessment, the site and STRIPES team identify actions needed to prepare the site for the transition to STRIPES.



The next activity is training. The appropriate level of training is available for different types of STRIPES users. Classroom training has been designed for procurement personnel. Non-procurement STRIPES users will have specially designed Computer-based Training (CBT). Examples of these users include, DOE Project Managers, Program Office Administration and Budget personnel, Business Clearance, Field Accounting, and Purchase Card Holders & Purchase Card Approving Officials just to name a few. The CBTs allow these and other users to revisit the on-line training as needed, and will remain available as new STRIPES users access the system. A DOECAST and other communication channels will announce when the CBTs are available on the On-line Learning Center (OLC²).

Once training is conducted, the reconstruction begins for existing instruments (contract, grant, etc.). This is when each site has identified the open instruments that should be migrated into the new STRIPES system. Reconstruction activity is expected to occur within a 1 week period. During this time, the site reviews, checks fields and ‘releases’ their migrated instruments in STRIPES. The amount of time needed is expected to vary slightly, so each office should plan on devoting that week to transition to STRIPES. Reconstruction guidance will be issued to procurement organizations across DOE to help facilitate the instrument reconstruction process.

Finally, when the reconstruction week is over, pre-deployment is complete. The site then proceeds to actual system implementation, which is also known as deployment.

Updated Training Schedule

The revised STRIPES deployment schedule was finalized and distributed earlier this month. The updated training and deployment schedule have been provided to Procurement Directors and the SPOCs. Please contact your SPOC for more details about key dates for your office. As mentioned in the previous article,

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communications will be sent once the CBTs are officially posted on-line. In the meantime, please revisit the simulations to help you prepare for your actual training.

Please visit: <http://crinfo.doe.gov/officedocs/cf40/home/STRIPESsimulations.htm>.

Financial Assistance User Acceptance Test (UAT)

A diverse group of Financial Assistance (FA) personnel representing Procurement, Policy, and Program Offices, as well as the STRIPES Help Desk gathered to conduct testing of the FA component of STRIPES. While many FA Testers are new to the system, several also participated in the Acquisition UATs. Over the last few months, the STRIPES team has incorporated lessons learned from the Acquisition UAT that should enhance this new round of testing. This time around, the FA testers will observe three significant changes.

1. The first change is that all testers will receive STRIPES training prior to their actual testing activity. Previous UAT testers noted that many of their testing-related questions would have been addressed if they had been trained first. Testers will spend 2 days training and nearly 3 days testing.
2. The second notable improvement is that participants will have access to the STRIPES User Guide during the Financial Assistance Training pilot. The User Guide was a recommendation from the Acquisition UAT for STRIPES to provide a more robust “how to” guide. The User Guide can be the initial reference before a user contacts the STRIPES Help Desk or local “Super User”.
3. The last enhancement for this group of FA testers is the benefit of working in a more stable technical environment. During the Acquisition UATs, the testers experienced longer-than-average wait times as the integration between STARS was being tested for the first time. After extensive performance tests and problem-solving from a dedicated technical team, the integration and overall technical structure is greatly improved.

One challenge identified for Financial Assistance is that the current version of STRIPES does not have the capacity for a Grants.gov interface. While the next version of STRIPES will have a direct link to Grants.gov, it does not today. In the meantime, the STRIPES Financial Assistance Team has identified a sufficient workaround until the next version of STRIPES is implemented within the next 2 years. The Grants.gov workaround process will be discussed and reviewed in the 2 day Financial Assistance training course.

Policy Corner: Meeting Milestones with PPAG

This past month, the DOE Office of Procurement and Assistance Policy (Policy) has achieved many significant milestones thanks to active participation from the field. The February 2008 meeting of the Procurement Policy Advisory Group (PPAG) was dedicated to all topics related to STRIPES. The PPAG site representatives are the individuals who will continue to work with Policy on issues relating to DOE corporate clauses, STRIPES acquisition library documents, and procedures for ‘manning and controlling’ local sites clauses.

The DOE corporate clauses have been formally submitted and incorporated into STRIPES. This final submission reflected the revisions from the PPAG review earlier this year. A Library review was completed with the help from the DOE Functional Team members. Consensus was achieved on defining the purpose and type of documents that would be permitted into the STRIPES Acquisition Library. STRIPES has begun to load library documents that meet the newly defined criteria.

STRIPES Project Information

STRIPES Federal Project Manager:
STRIPES IBM Project Manager:
I-MANAGE Program Executive:
I-MANAGE Program Site:
STRIPES Project E-Mail:

Douglas Baptist, 202-287-1658, douglas.baptist@hq.doe.gov
James Catalano, 703-485-9512, james.catalano@hq.doe.gov
Warren Huffer, 301-903-3761, warren.huffer@hq.doe.gov
<http://www.cfo.doe.gov/corpsyst/i-manage/>
STRIPES@hq.doe.gov